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Sen. Stamas' legislation to help grieving families approved

LANSING – Sen. Tony Stamas' legislation providing a tax credit to families suffering from the loss of a stillborn child has unanimously passed the Michigan Senate and House of Representatives.

“Families grieving the loss of a child due to stillbirth face not only sadness and sorrow, but financial burdens as well,” said Stamas, R-Midland, chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of Community Health. “This is the least we can do to help alleviate some of the burden.”

Introduced by Stamas, Senate Bill 1176 provides a tax credit equal to the deduction for a single exemption during the year of the family's loss.

According to the Michigan Department of Community Health, there are approximately 750 stillbirths in Michigan annually.

“In addition to funeral expenses, the parents of a stillborn child still have all the prenatal and preparation expenses of expectant parents,” Stamas said. “Although we can't do anything to help parents cope with the loss of their child, we can help ease their financial strain.”

SB 1176 will now head to the governor's desk for passage into law.

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